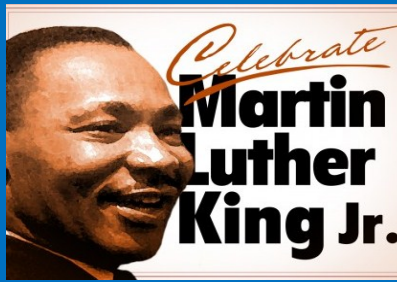




**Youth and Community
Leaders Forum**
P.4



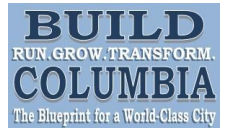
**27th Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**
P.4



The Ringing of the Bells
P.2



Inside Columbia



DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

On Tuesday, December 16, 2014, Sidney (Trey) F. Varn III was recognized as the December Employee of the Month. Trey has served as the Operations Supervisor at the Lake Murray WTP for more than seven years. He constantly looks for ways to expand his knowledge in areas that will improve oversight in the facilities. Trey is a very humble supervisor who cares deeply for his staff. Congratulations Mr. Sidney (Trey) F. Varn III.

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

City staff volunteered as bell ringers in an effort; to raise money for the Salvation Army, including Assistant City Manager, Allison Baker , Assistant to City Council, Libby Gober, and Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook, Sr.

The Red Kettle Christmas Campaign enabled the Salvation Army to provide food, toys and clothing to over six million people during the Christmas season and helped more than 34 million Americans recovering from all kinds of personal disasters nationwide.

The Red Kettle campaign, first started in San Francisco in 1891, has traditionally been the Salvation Army's most prominent fundraiser.



CONDOLENCES

- Tina Saxon in the death of her grandmother, Edna Patterson Saxon ,who passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2014.
- Ned Woods Jr. in the death his parents Helen & Ned Woods, Sr. Services were held on Saturday, December 20, 2014.
- Missy Caughman in the death of her sister, Cathy Odom who passed away. The memorial was held on December 12, 2014.
- Jonathan Parker in the death of his father, John Parker, who passed away on Wednesday, December, 24, 2014. The service was held on Tuesday, December 30, 2014.
- Jason Menchee in the death of his grandfather, Melvin Bryant, who passed away on Wednesday, December, 24, 2014. The service was held on Monday, December 29, 2014.
- Retired Corporal David Ouellette in the passing of his sister, Amy Lynn La Rosa on December 21, 2014
- Inv. Wayne Montgomery in the passing of his mother, Mrs. Marian Montgomery on December 27, 2014
- Officer McNeill in the passing of his Mother-in-law, Ms. Pearl Ray Morris on January 5, 2015

Please keep them in your thoughts during this difficult time.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kelly Leveck and his wife Amanda on the birth of their baby Knox.
- Officer Kai Tull and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Laila Maria Tull, born on December 23, 2014 at 12:06 a.m., weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz.



FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF RECOGNIZED

Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins presented the Medal of Valor to Engineer Anthony Holloway and Firefighter Ronald Odom during a ceremony held on January 2 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Both Holloway and Odom were on the scene of a house fire attempting to make entry into a second floor window using a ground ladder to search for a child inside the heavily involved house fire; when the ladder collapsed and both fell from the ladder. Despite both firefighters receiving injuries they immediately got up and reestablished the ladder and made entry to the home to continue searching. The search ended after the child safely exited the home.

Chief Jenkins said, “This exemplifies what the CFD stands for, to have the fortitude and bravery to push through an injury and fire conditions in an attempt to locate a possible victim.”

Chief Jenkins also awarded several “Firefighter of the Year” awards:

Battalion Chief Christopher Kip was awarded Chief Officer of the Year, Captain Ryan Gates was awarded Officer of the Year, Engineer Jacob Eller was awarded Engineer of the Year, Senior Firefighter Chris Ford was awarded Senior Firefighter of the Year, Firefighter Chris Corely was awarded Firefighter of the Year, Captain Michael Snedden was awarded Volunteer Firefighter of the Year and Ms. Cynthia LeFebvre was awarded Support Staff of the Year.



Anthony Holloway
Medal of Valor



Ronald Odom
Medal of Valor



Christopher Kip
Chief Officer of the Year



Ryan Gates
Officer of the Year



Jacob Eller
Engineer of the Year



Chris Ford
Senior Firefighter of the Year



Cynthia LeFebvre
Support Staff of the Year

27TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

The City of Columbia and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation announced the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be held on Monday, January 19, 2015, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street.

Columbia Urban League President and Chief Executive Officer James T. McLawhorn, Jr. will be the keynote speaker. The celebration will also include performances from A. C. Flora High School Gospel Ensemble, The Brotherhood of First Nazareth Baptist Church and Jonathan Cannon, a Dutch Fork High School junior.



The celebration will also include a Wreath Laying Ceremony to commemorate the historic marker honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 3:06 p.m. at the corner of Harden and Greene streets. Members of the Alpha Psi Lambda and Omicron Iota Lambda chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will lead the ceremony.

On Saturday, January 17, 2015, the Omicron Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Bridging the Gap With Alpha, Inc. will hold the 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. 5K Run/Fitness Walk at 9 a.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park located at 2300 Greene Street.

The fee is \$30 (with T-shirt) or \$25 (without the T-shirt). Proceeds from the race will benefit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation and The Alpha Academy.

Olympic-style medals will be awarded to the first three male and female finishers in 13 age divisions. Proceeds from the race will benefit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation and The Alpha Academy.

For more information about the 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or smbell@columbiasc.net, or visit www.columbiasc.net.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FORUM

The Community Relations Council (CRC), in collaboration with the City of Columbia, hosted a Youth and Community Leaders Forum on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at the Columbia Police Department (CPD) Headquarters, 1 Justice Square. Mayor Steve Benjamin welcomed the attendees and the City's CPD and Parks and Recreation staff participated and served as subject matter experts.

"The roundtable discussion brought both large, small, new and veteran youth organizations together to discuss youth advocacy, mentoring and youth job creation. The objective is to focus on creating a healthier and safer community for children and youth. This roundtable was the first of a series of Community Relations Council youth focus events to come," DeAnna Bookert, Program Manager, Community Relations Council.



"As a city, we are committed to providing quality resources and programs to our youth," City Manager Teresa Wilson stated. "Our staff are dedicated to serving our children and to offering opportunities to partner with local youth organizations."

CRC's Youth Initiative uses innovative and collaborative programs to reach young people in school and community center settings that enhance self-esteem and positive learning opportunities. Their ultimate goal is to assist today's youth in becoming productive and wholesome citizens in the larger community.

Photo Gallery



CCN HOLIDAY DROP- IN



CPD HOLIDAY DROP- IN



CPD SPECIAL OPERATIONS HOLIDAY DROP- IN



PUBLIC WORKS HOLIDAY DROP- IN & UGLY SWEATER CONTEST



Caught Doing Something Right

Marli Drum,

I want to compliment two of your excellent employees, Veronica Paxton, Animal Services Tech I and Marion Faltesek, Animal Services Tech II . Both went to great lengths to help me pick the right shelter dog to adopt. They both went the extra mile to ensure that I got the right dog to fit my family needs . I believed the quality of service that I received from your employees is a testament to your leadership.

Thanks,
Larry D. McCall
Code Enforcement Unit
Chief Code Enforcement Officer
Columbia Police Department



Women's Wednesday



We Are Columbia

City of Columbia
Parks & Recreation
1111 Parkside Drive
Columbia, SC 29203
803-545-3100
Columbiasc.net

Women's Wednesday

Pickup Basketball Games

January 14, 2015

7-9 pm @ King Park

(2300 Greene Street, Columbia 29205)

Pickup games start at 7:15 pm for women 18 & over

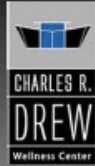
Sports drinks and hors d'oeuvres provided

Free admission

To register as a team or individually, contact Corinn Taylor or Carl Watson
at (803) 545-3100, or Le'Shunn White at (803) 733-8452.

For more information, contact Corinn Taylor at (803) 545-3109 or cetaylor@columbiasc.net.

Women's Defense Class

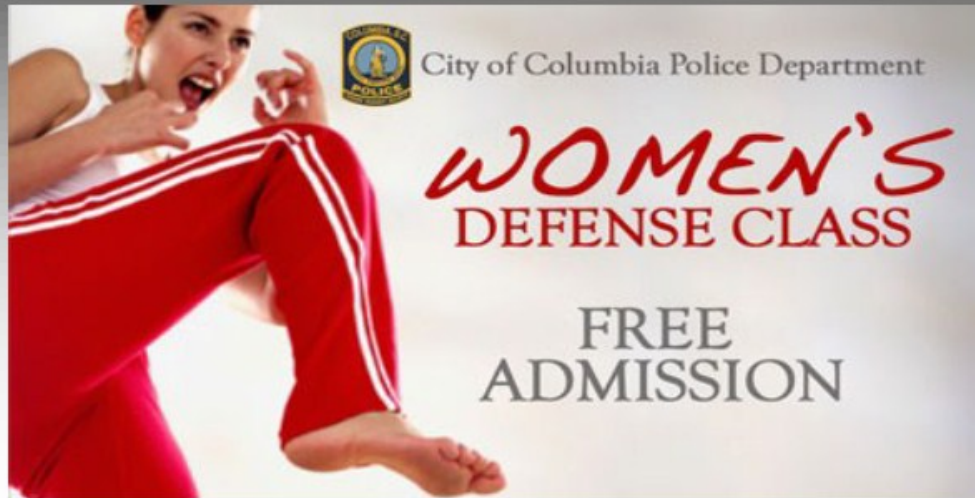


Charles R. Drew Wellness Center

2101 Walker Solomon Way Columbia, SC 29204

(803) 545-3200

www.drewwellnesscenter.com



When: January 13 and January 27 @ 5:30PM
You pick your day!

Where: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center

Who: Open to girls and women ages 13 and up

- Stick to well-lit, well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots or alleys where there are dark hiding spots.
- Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, and try not to keep currency and credit cards all in one place.
- Have your car or house key in hand before you reach the door.
- The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do!

Call 803-545-3200 to reserve your space TODAY!



www.columbiasc.net

Green@Work



GREEN@WORK

Sustainability News for City of Columbia Employees: January 2015

Keep Heating Bills Down This Winter

Five Easy Ways You Can Help Lower Your Heating Bill

Around this time of the year, you might start to feel a pinch in your pocketbook from rising energy bills. Heating and cooling account for 56 percent of the energy use in a typical home, and January is traditionally the coldest month in Columbia. Here are five easy ways you can help lower your heating bill:

- Turn your thermostat down five degrees. Each degree saves about two percent on your heating bill. Five degrees could save about \$100 on a \$1000 annual heating bill. Try setting it back the eight hours you're at work, and perhaps while you're sleeping, too.
- Make sure heat can get into the room. Keep furniture and drapes from blocking radiators, heating registers and return vents. Blocked vents prevent heated air from circulating properly.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed. Heat rises, and an open damper is like a hole in the roof. Also, limit use of the fireplace, since fires actually suck heat from a room.
- Turn down the water heater. Lowering the temperature of water in the water heater to 115-120 degrees reduces power use often without a noticeable difference to the user.
- Use curtains. Opening curtains and shades on south-facing windows during the day allows solar radiation to warm a living space; closing all curtains at night helps prevent heat loss.

Small Changes Can Add Up to Big Savings

Three Green Resolutions for City Employees

1. Turn off lights when leaving your office for more than just a few minutes and at the end of the day. *If overhead lights at one City building were used just one hour less per day, the annual savings would exceed \$1000.*
2. Unless needed for task lighting, turn off decorative lamps. Use only when needed; turn off when task is complete. *If just 25 employees turned off one 40-watt bulb for an hour a day, the City can save \$20 per year.*
3. Unplug electronic items that aren't in use, especially chargers. Adapters plugged into outlets use energy even when they aren't charging. *Each charger unplugged saves the City \$10 per year.*

City of Columbia Parks Superintendent Receives Keep the Midlands Beautiful Award

Congratulations to City of Columbia Parks Superintendent Graham Taylor, who recently received the 2014 Partner/Volunteer of the Year Award from [Keep the Midlands Beautiful](#).

Keep the Midlands Beautiful partners with the City on tree-planting and beautification projects, and their director credits his "can do" mentality for their success.

"He and his team always help us," says Jacq Buck, Keep the Midlands Beautiful executive director. "When I call him, he always says, 'We'll make it work,' no matter the request."



Save the Date!

LIFE SAVER

American Red Cross

5th Annual Columbia Lifesavers Blood Drive

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, February 27

7 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

To schedule your donation appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.



Sponsored by Mayor Steve Benjamin, the City of Columbia and the American Red Cross S.C. Region Board of Directors

Holiday Schedule

- The City of Columbia Offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2015 in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.



City Media

www.ColumbiaSC.net



TWC Ch.2 City Talk

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
pio@columbiasc.net P: 803-545-3020 F: 803-343-8719